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Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 18 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Republic of Yemen wishes to express the following reservations on the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development":

1. The Republic of Yemen underscores that the content of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should be interpreted and implemented in a manner consistent with the national legislation and development priorities of countries and their cultural and ethical values and religious background and in line with internationally recognized human rights.

2. In paragraph 19 of the declaration and target 10.2, we do not view the phrase "other status" to apply to sexual orientation, gender identity, same-sex couples or lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender.

3. With respect to target 3.7, the Republic of Yemen does not join the consensus and:

(a) As for "information and education" in relation to universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, they should be age-appropriate and the Republic of Yemen denies that such a reference may be defined to include "comprehensive sexuality education". The Republic of Yemen further reaffirms that the "prior right" of parents to choose the kind of education given to their children, a right recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, must be respected;

(b) The use of the terms "information" and "education", in relation to universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, cannot imply any right of young children or adolescents to access any service without regard to parental responsibility, or the obligation to provide them with information and services that are neither lawful nor acceptable at the national level.

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4. With respect to target 5.4, the Republic of Yemen understands "within the household" only as defined in reference to "the family". The family, founded on the marriage of a man and a woman, is the natural and fundamental group unit of society.

5. With respect to target 5.6, the Republic of Yemen wishes to express a reservation on all terms and all possible interpretations in the document that are in contravention of our national laws. Target 5.6 or any other provision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its implementation or interpretation, shall in no case refer to or imply the concepts of sexual orientation, gender identity, same-sex couples, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender or abortion.

6. We understand the word "gender" throughout the document to refer only to "male and female".

7. The use of the terms "sexual and reproductive health" and "reproductive rights" and related terms throughout the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development does not create or presume the existence of a "right to abortion".

8. Therefore, the Republic of Yemen will not accept at any point any policies, monitoring, evaluation or reporting on any provision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that will include or tend to include, explicitly or implicitly, the concepts of sexual orientation, gender identity, same-sex couples, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender or abortion.

9. In the same vein, the Republic of Yemen stresses that indicators for tracking progress on the agreed goals and targets should not invade national policy space or contradict national priorities on the above-mentioned concepts, in accordance with Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations.

10. The Republic of Yemen is of the view that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all international instruments relating to human rights and international law reflected therein are not intended to standardize the cultural values of peoples around the globe. Thus, the Republic of Yemen will implement and interpret the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in full accordance with our national legislation and the ethical, cultural and religious values and convictions of our society and in line with internationally recognized human rights.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 15 and 116.

(*Signed*) Khaled H. **Alyemany**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative